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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/777,334	02/12/2004	Franck-Phillippe N'Dia	AC0523US (#90613)	4914
28672 7590 04/09/2007 D. PETER HOCHBERG CO. L.P.A. 1940 EAST 6TH STREET CLEVELAND, OH 44114			EXAMINER PASCUA, JES F	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3782	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		04/09/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/777,334

Applicant(s)

N'DIA, FRANCK-PHILLIPPE

Examiner

Jes F. Pascua

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 December 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 16-21 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 February 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5/25/04, 2/16/07.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Group I, claims 1-15, in the reply filed on 12/29/2006 is acknowledged.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the transparent outer layer and at least one additional layer comprising a printed inner surface (claim 6) must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New

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Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1, 2, 4, 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,886,674 to Seward et al.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Seward et al. and U.S. Patent No. 4,445,550 to Davis et al.

Seward et al. discloses the claimed device except it is unclear as to the material of the barrier (20). Davis et al. discloses that it is known in the art to provide a

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multilayer material, including layers of NYLON, LLDPE and aluminum foil for an analogous barrier (28). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the barrier of Seward et al. using the multilayer material of Davis et al., since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice.

7. Claims 1, 2, 7, 8-11, 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,971,613 to Bell and U.S. Patent No. 6,595,391 to Anderson.

Bell discloses the claimed device except for the fitment (27) having an opening that is covered by a barrier material. Anderson discloses that it is known in the art to provide a barrier (24) over the opening of an analogous fitment. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the fitment of Bell with the barrier material of Anderson, in order to prevent contaminants from entering the container subsequent to introducing filling material into the container.

Regarding claim 8, Bell and Anderson disclose the claimed invention, as discussed above, except for the bottom (39) being sealed to the first and second panels (24, 26) along diagonal seams instead of curved seams. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to replace the curved seams connecting the bottom of the Bell container to the first and second panels

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with diagonal seams, since the Examiner takes Official Notice of the equivalence of diagonal seams and curved seams for their use in the container art and the selection of any of these known equivalents to permit the container of Bell to assume an upright position would be within the level of ordinary skill in the art.

8. Claims 3, 12 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bell and Anderson as applied to claims 2, 11 and 13 above, and further in view of Davis et al.

Bell and Anderson disclose the claimed device, as discussed above, except it is unclear as to the material of the barrier material (24). Davis et al. discloses that it is known in the art to provide a multilayer material, including layers of NYLON, LLDPE and aluminum foil for an analogous barrier (28). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the barrier of Anderson using the multilayer material of Davis et al., since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice.

9. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bell and Anderson as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,265,038 to Frisk.

Bell and Anderson disclose the claimed device except for the panels of the container comprising a transparent outer layer and at least one addition layer

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comprising a printed inner surface. Frisk shows that it is known in the art of stand up pouches to provide a transparent, multilayer material as a laminate with a reverse printed film. It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the panel material of Bell using the transparent, multilayer material with the reverse printed film of Frisk, since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice.

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

11. Applicant is duly reminded that a complete response must satisfy the requirements of 37 C.F. R. 1.111, including: "The reply must present arguments pointing out the specific distinctions believed to render the claims, including any newly presented claims, patentable over any applied references. A general allegation that the claims "define a patentable invention" without specifically pointing out how the language of the claims patentably distinguishes them from the references does not comply with the requirements of this section. Moreover, "The prompt development of a clear Issue requires that the replies of the applicant meet the objections to and rejections of the claims." Applicant should also specifically point out the support for any amendments

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made to the disclosure. See MPEP 2163.06 II(A), MPEP 2163.06 and MPEP 714.02.

The "disclosure" includes the claims, the specification and the drawings.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jes F. Pascua whose telephone number is 571-272-4546. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thurs..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nathan J. Newhouse can be reached on 571-272-4544. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Jes F. Pascua
Primary Examiner
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JFP